United Nations S/2008/847

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 December 2008

Original: English

Note by the President of the Security Council

1. The present note by the President of the Security Council concerning the summary statement of matters of which the Security Council is seized (seizure statement) consolidates and revises the provisions of paragraph 49 of the note by the President dated 19 July 2006 (S/2006/507) and paragraphs 5 to 7 of the note by the President dated 19 December 2007 (S/2007/749).

2. Rule 11 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council provides that the Secretary-General shall communicate each week to the representatives on the Security Council a summary statement of matters of which the Security Council is seized and of the stage reached in their consideration.

3. The practice of including an agenda item on the seizure statement once it has been adopted at a formal meeting of the Security Council will remain the same. In this connection, the members of the Security Council recall paragraph 2 of the note by the President of the Security Council dated 19 July 2006 (S/2006/507), which states the desirability, whenever possible, of using descriptive formulations of agenda items at the time of their initial adoption and that, when such a descriptive formulation exists, consideration may be given to subsuming earlier agenda items on the same subject under the descriptive formulation.

4. At the end of each year, the Security Council will review the seizure statement in order to determine if the Council has concluded its consideration of any of the listed items, in particular those items that were considered for the first time that year, and whether consequently, such items should be deleted from the seizure statement. Further, except as herein provided, any item which has not been considered by the Security Council during the preceding three calendar years will also be deleted.

5. The preliminary annual summary statement issued in January of each year by the Secretary-General on matters of which the Council is seized will identify the items to be deleted from the list. The first seizure statement issued in March of each year will reflect the deletion of these items, unless a Member State of the United Nations notifies the President of the Security Council by the end of February of that year that it requests an item to remain on the seizure statement, in which case such item will remain on the seizure statement for one year, unless the Security Council decides otherwise.

6. The deletion of an item does not imply that such an item cannot be taken up by the Security Council as and when it deems necessary in the future.

09-00045 (E) 060109

7. The seizure statement will be presented in the format of two sections, as follows: one section comprising items which have been considered by the Security Council at a meeting during the preceding three-year period, and another section comprising items which have not been considered at a meeting during the preceding three-year period but which the Security Council has decided to retain at the request of a Member State.

8. The Security Council reconfirms that the first seizure statement of each month will contain a full, updated list of items of which the Security Council is seized. For intervening weeks, a weekly addendum to the summary statement will be issued listing only those items on which further action has been taken by the Council during the previous week or indicating that there has been no change during that period.

9. The Security Council reconfirms that references given for each item listed in the seizure statement will be the dates when the item was first taken up by the Council at a formal meeting and the most recent formal meeting of the Council held on that item.